

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A developer supply container for supplying a developer into an image forming apparatus, comprising:

a developer container for accommodating a developer;

a stirring member for stirring the developer in said developer container;

wherein said stirring member includes a flexible member, a supporting portion for supporting said flexible member, a rotation shaft, and a plurality of connecting portions for connecting said rotation shaft and said supporting portion;

wherein said supporting portion has a contact portion which is contacted to said flexible member when said flexible member flexes during its stirring operation and a non-contact portion which does not contact to said flexible member when said flexible member flexes during its stirring operation, between said connecting portions, said non-contact portion being adjacent said contact portion with respect to a direction of an axis of said rotational shaft.

2. A developer supply container according to Claim 1, wherein said supporting portion said includes

a parallel portion which is parallel with an overhanging direction of said flexible member and is contacted to said flexible member when said flexible

member is flexed, and includes a crossing portion which crosses with the overhanging direction and is not contacted to said flexible member when said flexible member is not flexed.

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3. A developer supply container according to Claim 2, wherein said crossing portion has said contact portion and said non- contact portion.

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4. A developer supply container according to Claim 3, wherein said crossing portion crosses with a direction perpendicular to said rotation shaft.

15 5. A developer supply container according to Claim 3, wherein the overhanging direction and a tangential direction forms an angle  $\theta$ , wherein  $30^{\circ} \leq \theta \leq 60^{\circ}$ .

20 6. A developer supply container according to Claim 3, wherein a length of the non- contact portion is shorter than a length of the contact portion as measured in a crossing direction in the crossing portion.

25 7. A developer supply container according to Claim 6, wherein a length L1 of said non- contact portion and a length L2 of extension from said

crossing portion of said flexible member, satisfies  
 $0.2 \times L2 < L1 < 0.6 \times L2$ .

8. A developer supply container according to  
5 Claim 7, wherein a length of the contact portion as  
measured in a direction of an axis of the shaft is  
larger than that of said connecting portion, and is  
not more than  $1/3$  of a total length of said supporting  
portion.

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9. A developer supply container according to  
Claim 8, wherein the length of said contact portion as  
measured in a direction of the axis is not more than  
 $1/10$  of the total length of said supporting portion.

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10. A developer supply container according to any  
one of claims 7-9, wherein a length  $L3$  of said non-  
contact portion as measured in a crossing direction in  
said crossing portion is shorter than the length  $L2$ .

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11. A developer supply container according to  
Claim 1, wherein said flexible member is contactable  
to an inner surface of said developer container.

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12. A developer supply container according to  
Claim 1, wherein said developer supply container is  
detachably mountable to said image forming apparatus.

13. A stirring member for stirring a developer in a developer container by rotation thereof, comprising:

a rotation shaft;

a flexible member;

5 a supporting portion for supporting said flexible member;

a connecting portion for connecting said supporting portion with said rotation shaft;

10 wherein said supporting portion has a contact portion which is contacted to said flexible member when said flexible member flexes during its stirring operation and a non-contact portion which does not contact to said flexible member when said flexible member flexes during its stirring operation, between  
15 said connecting portions, said non-contact portion being adjacent said contact portion with respect to a direction of an axis of said rotational shaft.

14. A stirring member according to Claim 13,  
20 wherein said supporting portion said includes a parallel portion which is parallel with an overhanging direction of said flexible member and is contacted to said flexible member when said flexible member is flexed, and includes a crossing portion which crosses  
25 with the overhanging direction and is not contacted to said flexible member when said flexible member is not flexed.

15. A stirring member according to Claim 14,  
wherein said crossing portion has said contact portion  
and said non- contact portion.

5        16. A stirring member according to Claim 15,  
wherein said crossing portion crosses with a direction  
perpendicular to said rotation shaft.

10       17. A stirring member according to Claim 15,  
wherein the overhanging direction and a tangential  
direction forms an angle  $\theta$ , wherein  $30^{\circ} \leq \theta \leq 60^{\circ}$ .

15       18. A stirring member according to Claim 15,  
wherein a length of the non- contact portion is  
shorter than a length of the contact portion as  
measured in a crossing direction in the crossing  
portion.

20       19. A stirring member according to Claim 18,  
wherein a length  $L_1$  of said non- contact portion and a  
length  $L_2$  of extension from said crossing portion of  
said flexible member, satisfies  $0.2 \times L_2 < L_1 < 0.6 \times L_2$ .

25       20. A stirring member according to Claim 19,  
wherein a length of the contact portion as measured in  
a direction of an axis of the shaft is larger than  
that of said connecting portion, and is not more than

1/3 of a total length of said supporting portion.

21. A stirring member according to Claim 20,  
wherein the length of said contact portion as measured  
5 in a direction of the axis is not more than 1/10 of  
the total length of said supporting portion.

22. A stirring member according to Claim 19-21,  
wherein a length L3 of said non- contact portion as  
10 measured in a crossing direction in said crossing  
portion is shorter than the length L2.

23. A stirring member according to Claim 13,  
wherein said flexible member is contactable to an  
15 inner surface of said developer container.

24. A stirring member according to Claim 13,  
wherein said stirring member stirs the developer in  
said developer container for supplying the toner into  
20 an image forming apparatus.

25. A developer supply container for supplying a  
developer into an image forming apparatus, comprising:  
a developer container for accommodating a  
25 developer;

a stirring member for stirring the developer  
in said developer container;

wherein said stirring member includes a flexible member, a supporting portion for supporting said flexible member, a rotation shaft, and a plurality of connecting portions for connecting said rotation shaft and said supporting portion;

wherein said supporting portion has a smaller strength at a portion between the connecting portions than at a portion where it is connected with the connecting portions.

26. A stirring member for stirring a developer in a developer container by rotation thereof, comprising:

a rotation shaft;

a flexible member;

a supporting portion for supporting said flexible member;

a connecting portion for connecting said supporting portion with said rotation shaft;

wherein said supporting portion has a smaller strength at a portion between the connecting portions than at a portion where it is connected with the connecting portions.